

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. Claims 21, 22 and 24-36 are allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Sean D. Detweiler Reg. No. 42,482 on 15th April 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 21 line 2 has been changed from "handling an issue related to a design of a product using a computer a system that enables" to -- handling an issue related to a design of a product using a computer system that enables --.

4/29/07
Claim 21 line 7 has been changed from "design issue object^{are} capable of encapsulating at least one article of information and at least" to -- design issue object encapsulates at least one article of information and at least --.

Examiner's Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: While *McAndrew* teaches decision support system on a network of computers and *Peters et al.* teaches a computerized decision support system on a plurality of computers and *Melchoine* teaches a computerized decision support system on a plurality of computers **none of these references taken either alone or in combination with the prior art of record disclose**, a decision object